



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Red Rock
Ranger District

P. O. Box 20429
Sedona, AZ 86341
Phone: (928) 282-4119
Fax: (928) 203-7539

File Code: 2350

Date: July 27, 2012

Mr. Alan Ragins
RTCA Program Manager
National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Dear Mr. Ragins,

The Red Rock Ranger District, City of Sedona and International Mountain Biking Association are co-sponsors of this grant request titled: Red Rock Trails – A Vision to Connect and Protect. We request RTCA Program assistance to guide us in a public participation process. Our ultimate goal is to update the trail plan for National Forest land surrounding the City of Sedona and Village of Oak Creek (Big Park). Project objectives in year one (FY13) include:

- Understand local public demand and opportunities, and social and environmental issues related to non-motorized trail use on National Forest lands around City of Sedona and Village of Oak Creek (VOC);
- Enhance public knowledge about local trails and environmental issues; and
- Gain stakeholder participation and identify strategies and solutions to address these issues.

Technical assistance from an RTCA planner would provide a neutral moderator to bring stakeholders together to develop a trail system blueprint for the future. The project area contains an extraordinary environment that attracts over 1.5 million visitors each year. Of those, 600,000 people hike, ride and bike in this area each year. The local community has ranked trails as their number one recreation asset. A trail plan would protect natural and cultural resources and enhance outdoor recreation.

The timing has never been better to begin this process. Substantial public outreach about trails has already been done by the Forest Service, City and counties. This project will build on that work, tapping into the local passion for trails to get more specific about the resources at stake and opportunities available. The sponsors, and other avid supporters, offer a variety of contributions to work with the RTCA planner to bring this complex situation down to a series of realistic steps to meet the goals and objectives.


This application has broad community support including the Verde Valley Cycling Coalition, the Big Park Regional Coordinating Council (Village of Oak Creek), Sedona Chamber of Commerce, Flagstaff Biking Organization, Coconino County, Yavapai County, Backcountry Horsemen of Central Arizona, and the Sedona Westerners. These entities recognize the power of trails to link people, nature and community and seek involvement in this effort to enhance the public trail system.



Please take the time to review our application which contains information about the situation at hand and our need to collaborate for a future trail system, and our thoughts for working with the RTCA planner.

If you have questions, please direct them to Recreation Staff Officer Jennifer Burns at 928-551-2559. We look very much forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

acting for

HEATHER C. PROVENCIO
District Ranger

cc: Rob Adams, Sedona Mayor, Patrick Kell, IMBA Regional Director

Attachments: RTCA Grant Application; Letters of support; Vicinity Map; General Red Rock Trails Map.

Application Form for NPS RTCA Assistance

Steps for applicant:

- *Contact RTCA staff at least two weeks before applying for assistance;*
- *Send Applicant Information and Project Description to RTCA_Application@nps.gov by August 1 or by U.S. Mail to appropriate Program Manager postmarked by August 1;*
- *We recommend sending maps, large background documents and support letters by U.S. Mail to appropriate Program Manager postmarked by August 1.*

Project Name: RED ROCK TRAILS – A VISION TO CONNECT AND PROTECT

Date: July 27, 2012

Project Location: Sedona, AZ

City, County and State: Sedona, Yavapai and Coconino Counties, Arizona

Congressional District(s): AZ1

Applicant organization: United States Forest Service, the City of Sedona, the International Mountain Bicycling Association

Primary Contact: Jennifer Burns **Title:** USFS Recreation Staff Officer, Red Rock Ranger District

Street Address: 8375 SR 179

City: Sedona **State:** AZ **Zip Code:** 86351

Email: jmburns@fs.fed.us **Daytime Phone:** 928-551-2559

Project Description:

1. **Describe the goals of your project and any tangible conservation or outdoor recreation results expected. Quantify the expected results in terms of miles of trail or protected river, acres of open space, parkland, habitat, etc. Briefly describe any prior activity or history, if any, on the project and its current status: What aspects of projects are going well, aspects you think need the most help. Include expected completion date if known.**

The Forest Service and co-sponsors (City of Sedona and International Mountain Biking Association) are requesting assistance from the RTCA Program, to facilitate a public participation process. This process will educate stakeholders and gather information about public trail use and environmental sensitivities. The sponsor's ultimate goal is to update the trails plan for National Forest land surrounding the City of Sedona and Village of Oak Creek. Project objectives in year one (FY13) include:

- Gain an understanding of public demand and opportunities, and social and environmental issues related to non-motorized trail use on National Forest lands around City of Sedona and Village of Oak Creek (VOC);
- Enhance public knowledge about local trails and environmental issues related to trails; and
- Gain public participation to identify strategies, ideas and solutions to address these issues.

The public process would rely on a series of public meetings, mapping exercises, field trips and discussions to gather input from trail stakeholders; the generation of environmental information and maps of the area; the formulation of pertinent data into a publicly accessible format; and discussions to identify strategies for the future of trails in the area.

Equally as important will be the identification of grant, partnership and volunteer opportunities to gain participation and implement actions.

The public participation should result in a trail plan for the future of Forest Service lands around Sedona and Village of Oak Creek. This trail plan would:

- Protect existing and identify new public access to the trail system from the community.
- Identify key natural and cultural resources and align trails to complement their protection.
- identify "low hanging fruit" for categorical exclusion decision memorandum vs. other actions that require an environmental assessment
- Educate, inform and involve the community in trails.
- Identify new trails/trailheads.
- Identify methods to reduce trail user conflicts.
- Identify best management practices for trails in the local ecosystem.
- Identify future "build-out" of trails in the local ecosystem.
- Identify service groups and volunteer opportunities to enhance and maintain trails.
- Identify grant and other funding sources to implement the trail plan.

Background: Six years ago the District noticed an increase in the amount of unauthorized trail construction on National Forest around Sedona and VOC. Much of the unauthorized construction is aimed at creating more trails that appeal to mountain bikers. Other trends observed by Forest Service include: 30% increase in the number of trail users in the last couple of years, more crowding at trailheads, a lengthening trail use season, increased 911 calls from lost trail users, and increased use of and demand for "easy" trails and trails that access water.

Beginning in 2009 the Forest Service increased actions to address the issue of unauthorized trail construction and began to update the trail system. Trail users were contacted and engaged through local trail events. Numerous user-created trails have been evaluated and added into the official trail system. This process has been successful. However, Forest Service resource specialists and members of the public increasingly raise issues that can only be addressed through a "big picture" look at the entire area. For this reason the Forest Service seeks a comprehensive and inclusive approach to trail planning. This project is the next step in answering that question.

The project area is approximately 50,000 acres of National Forest land surrounding Sedona and VOC and contains over 100 miles of system trails. The project is expected to offer substantial conservation value to the entire area through the identification of a future trail system that contains trail use onto designated sustainable alignments. It is anticipated that the trail system could expand by as much as 25 miles through the master planning effort.

2. **Describe how your project will protect or improve important natural resources and/or enhance outdoor recreation opportunities.**

Improve Environmental Conditions:

The project will help to create a trail system blueprint that is compatible with local cultural, biological and soils conditions. The project area is approximately 50,000 acres and contains an extraordinary environment: erosive soils, high densities of cultural resources and unique plants and wildlife. (Refer to attached vicinity map.) It is estimated that over 3 million people visit the area/year: 1.5 million visitors use the National Forest; and of those, 600,000 people hike, ride and bike in this area each year. A functioning trail system is essential to facilitate this use while protecting the values that attract it. The current trail system is outdated and inadequate. With 1.4 million people two hours away, trail use will continue to increase.

Lack of adequate trails has led to off-trail travel and unregulated trail building. This activity leads to a continually evolving "user-created" trail inventory that has substantial impacts on the areas natural and cultural resources, leading to decreasing visitor safety and quality of recreation experience. Management of these issues diverts funds away from more positive trail planning, design and construction efforts.

Protection and preservation will come about through identifying critical habitats and locations, identifying the specific challenges posed to these resources, identifying the sustainable locations in relation to future trails and educating the public as such. This process is intended to bring about a greater public understanding of the Forest Service NEPA decision making process, and educate the public on NEPA as a mechanism to provide high-level, long-term resource protection.

Enhance Recreation Opportunities:

The project will help to:

- Improve opportunities for public outdoor enjoyment by creating trail experiences
- Create a trail system that offers ample and convenient access to the outdoors: outcome is improved health.
- Meet visitor needs to sustain and enhance the Verde Valley tourism economy.
- Align natural and cultural resources with recreation trails
- Enhance loops, identify missing components and identify how to meet demand of various users
- Identify potential easements or linkages from communities
- Identify and inform stakeholders; encourage collaboration throughout process

This process will provide the foundation for an updated trail plan covering the most visited/used locations in the Red Rock area. It is anticipated that through collaboration, 25% more miles of non-motorized trail will be identified as suitable to add to the official trail system including connecting trails, links, and loops that add to the public's enjoyment of the area. Important opportunities for trail connections between schools, neighborhoods, City parks and open space and National Forest trails will be identified. Critical locations for public access easements will be identified and prioritized. Valuable information on public recreational demands (new trails, special feature or varied trail difficulties, for example) will be generated by the process. Essential and accurate base-line trail inventory information will be available.

The audience for this project reflects a wide range of trail interests including: active retired people, families on vacation, elementary and high school youth, world class athletes, commercial tour guides and clients, and people with disabilities. The project will be designed to contact representatives of this diverse audience, to find out what trails they use, what they need and what they are willing to help bring into reality.

3. List the partners involved and describe how they are actively and substantively involved in the project. Identify those partners that embrace any of the current strategic themes for RTCA. Briefly summarize the existing or anticipated role and contribution of each. (*Three support letters from partners required*)

1. The United States Forest Service (Coconino National Forest - Red Rocks Ranger District) is a sponsor of this project. District staff will support the logistics of the project (maps, information, meeting space, etc.). The USFS embraces several strategic themes of the RTCA program, including that of *"natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation."* The District seeks to improve resource protection and enhance visitor recreation in the project area. The Forest Service is reluctant to continue a piecemeal approach to trail system additions and seeks a more comprehensive solution. An updated trail plan for Red Rock District areas surrounding Sedona is needed. In addition, there is a need to focus future trail funds, volunteer and community efforts in a positive direction that reflects an updated plan for the future.
2. The City of Sedona has 10,000 residents and is surrounded by National Forest. On any day, there may be more than 20,000 people visiting Sedona, many of whom use the trail system, City parks and open spaces. In 2011 the City began the revision of their Parks and Recreation Master Plan. That process is currently underway and slated to be completed in fall 2012. The community surveys, focus groups, and general community meetings, show that the management and development of trails in Sedona is a highest priority for residents and other community stakeholders. The City staff and Council view this project as placing a much needed focus on community trails and how trails continue to support resident quality of life and economic wellbeing. The City Parks and Recreation Department in particular would like information to better prioritize future funds in regards to trails in the urban interface. The City's interest pertains to the RTCA strategic theme of *"providing physical connections among resources"*, as much of the land that they manage

is located at the urban interface, where there is the need to connect existing recreation facilities, pathways, and neighborhoods. The City of Sedona, a co-sponsor, will play a logistical role by providing information, maps, and staff time to answer questions. At their July 24th, 2012 regular City Council meeting, Councilor McIlroy made a motion to approve the City of Sedona's co-sponsorship, with the US Forest Service, of a grant application to the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) to obtain technical assistance for trail planning. Councilor Ward seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously with all seven City Council members voting yes.

3. The Sedona Mountain Bike Club (SMBC) is the local chapter of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) with their goal being *"that by working together we will be effective at protecting our privilege to use the trails and enhance the experience for visitors as well as locals."* SMBC will play an active role as co-sponsor to represent a valuable and growing constituency of mountain bike riders in the area, and can provide information about the current trail inventory, assist with disseminating information about the public outreach process, and educate their membership regarding the outcomes of the process. IMBA is a primary partner in this process - as an organization with the mission *"to create, enhance and preserve great mountain biking experiences"*, IMBA wishes to see an improved, mapped and sanctioned trail system available to all levels of mountain bikers along with other trail user groups.
4. The Verde Valley Cyclists Coalition (VVCC) is involved as an IMBA affiliated regional cycling advocacy group, with the mission to *"improve the bicycling environment and thereby the quality of life in the region. We do this by promoting bicycle safety, education and facilities, and by encouraging use of the bicycle as an energy-efficient, economical and nonpolluting form of transportation and as a healthful and enjoyable form of recreation"*. This advocacy group has been active for over a decade and will assist the process by participating in public meetings and field trips, providing information about the current trail inventory, assist with disseminating information about the public outreach process, and educate membership regarding the outcomes of the process. This Coalition also wishes to see an improved, mapped and sanctioned trail system available to all levels and trail user groups.
5. The Sedona Westerners (SW) is a local Hiking Club and one of the oldest continuously active clubs in Sedona. With over 300 local members the Club dates its beginnings back to 1961. Veteran members of the club share with newcomers their appreciation and respect for the natural surroundings and cultural heritage of the area. In 1971, club members compiled the first-ever Sedona Area Hiking Map. On the map's legend -- besides the inscription 'Visitors Welcome' -- was the following characterization of the club: "The SWs is a group of people whose purpose is to help ourselves and others appreciate and preserve the natural beauty of this Sedona - Oak Creek Canyon country. Our trips are designed for good fellowship and enjoyment of our natural heritage." Members of this Club are among the residents who know the local trails the best. They will serve as highly interested participants in the planning process and add to the theme of *"natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation"* with their knowledge of local environmental and trail conditions.
6. Flagstaff Biking Organization (FBO) is involved as an IMBA affiliated regional cycling advocacy group, with the mission of *"promoting bicycling as a safe and attractive means of transportation and recreation in Northern Arizona."* FBO runs an active trail program which brings thousands of hours of volunteer maintenance and construction to the trails in the Flagstaff area each year. FBO has agreements with the Coconino National Forest, the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County, to develop non-motorized trails for great commuter and recreational opportunities, and access points into the surrounding National Forest lands and outlying communities. With 3400 registered supporters, FBO has been a leader in trail construction and maintenance efforts with successful partnerships and collaborations between mountain bikers and other trail users. FBO will serve to educate, inform, and logistically support this effort.

Letters of support also include Big Park Regional Coordinating Council (for VOC), Yavapai County, Coconino County, Backcountry Horsemen of Central Arizona, and Sedona Chamber of Commerce. These entities recognize the power of trails to link people, nature and community and seek involvement in this effort to improve the public trail system. Supporters value the long-term protection of a destination quality trail network, protection of the unique and extraordinary natural and cultural environment, and related economic sustainability for the Verde Valley.

The project endeavors to engage children, youth and young adults to learn about and participate in the future of trails in their neighborhood, school and community. Outreach via the local elementary, charter and high

school, the Verde Valley and Southwestern Academy preparatory schools, and Northern Arizona University will tap into existing outdoor and athletic programs. Youth will be invited to participate at public meetings, join field trips, and contribute ideas during the public process. The opinion and ideas of youth regarding the future of trail facilities and resources will be important to the national goal to "get youth outdoors and establish healthy lifestyles".

4. Provide other examples of support for the project including: supporting language in local, regional and state plans, endorsements from elected officials and boards, supportive votes or public survey results, other grants or awards received, or examples of media coverage. *Letters of support are welcome.* Describe public participation, if any, in the project so far, and any future public participation plans.

This project will be a coalescence of several previous public outreach processes including City of Sedona Plan update, Yavapai County Trail Planning and Coconino National Forest Plan revision.

Cities and Towns in Arizona are required by state law to have a general plan and to update it at least every ten years. The Sedona community planning process is a multi-year effort designed to rigorously solicit community input in order to guide City decisions on future growth and development in the community. The City is well into the process of gathering this community input through a myriad of methods including the establishment of a Citizen's Steering Committee, open access for all residents to a community planning room; ongoing facilitation of idea forums; public meetings; small focus groups; and citizen surveys. Through all of these efforts, and through various other public forums, the topic of urban trails and pathways has risen to the surface as a *highest priority* for the residents and visitors of Sedona. This feedback has created a strong impetus for the City to do intensive planning and partnering around future development and use of trails and open space. The City is "cost-sharing" with the Forest Service to fund an "adopt-a-trail" program in 2013. This program seeks to educate and engage residents in the care of trailheads and trails that they use in or near their neighborhoods. This "adopt-a-trail" program will be able to inform residents about this project while getting feedback from residents of use to the project.

Additionally, the USFS has over the past three years been gathering public input as part of a review of the existing trail system on federal lands around Sedona, adopting some of the user-built trails (currently non-system trails), and working to educate visitors and residents regarding the trail system. The USFS does not consider this 'piece-meal' approach to trail adoption as the most efficient or optimum, considering the vast geographical scope of the region under review, and the limitations on staff resources. Therefore, gathering information (through a process facilitated by the RTCA program) and developing a thorough understanding of the trail inventory; trail user demands and recommendations; and environmental constraints are essential in managing the local area trail network. The Coconino national forest is currently in Plan revision. The current trail plan for the Sedona area is dated 1998. This project will directly influence the trails element of this revision, scheduled for completion in 2014.

Yavapai County in 2011 completed the Verde Valley Regional Trails Concept Plan. This inventory and planning effort had substantial public involvement, much of which will be useful to this project. Half of this project area lies within Yavapai County.

5. Describe the kind of assistance you are seeking from RTCA staff.

We are seeking expertise that includes knowledge, experience and abilities related to non-motorized trail system planning; public involvement; natural resource management; facilitation; networking; public land management and policy administration. Main skill would be in goal driven public process facilitation to develop and achieve desired outcomes.

While the FS/City of Sedona/IMBA project is projected for two years, assistance is also requested for FY13. The project would likely include monthly travel to Sedona for on-site assistance as well as off-site research and administrative work. Estimated workload is 0.25 FTE.

Neither the City nor the Forest Service is in a position to facilitate the community conversation that is needed to update plans. Stakeholders and agencies are seeking a neutral and experienced

moderator to develop and implement a process that will gain stakeholder involvement and identify the opportunities and constraints surrounding future trail plans. Our request is for technical assistance from an RTCA staff person to:

- Assist with the development of a public participation plan;
- Implement the plan through, at a minimum, facilitation of a series of public meetings;
- Ensure that meeting results are complete and documented;
- Assist with gathering, organizing and formulating the information for public review and comment;
- Help clarify key requests and issue brought up by participants;
- Facilitate discussions to identify "next steps", priority actions, and strategies.

There have been various public forums on this matter in the past. They were largely held in isolation, without significant communication or synergy between the efforts. We see this process as an integrated and unified step forward, which would move beyond the concept stage. Initially, we would see information gathering sessions from the various constituent groups; the RTCA person would assist with organizing and formulating this information to be presented in a series of formats including a written summary, on the web, and as a series of public education meetings. Finally there would be mapping and a listing of the key requests from the public, concerns and constraints as identified by the land manager; and trail access actions to be taken by all parties.

Current strategic themes: (check boxes that apply)

X Project provides physical connection among resources;

X Project includes both outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation goals;

Project partners with an NPS area and/or connects communities to NPS areas parks; *NPS areas include: National Parks and Monuments, National Heritage Areas, National Trails and Wild & Scenic Rivers.*

Project partners with a health organization (active and substantial);

X Project engages youth partners.



INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BICYCLING ASSOCIATION

July 26, 2012

Ms. Cate Bradley
National Parks Service
Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
255 North Commerce Park Loop
Tucson, AZ 85745

Dear Ms. Bradley,

Please accept this letter of support from the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) and our local chapter, the Sedona Mountain Bike Club (SMBC) to accompany the application to the Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program.

The Sedona area has seen an acceleration of user built, non-sanctioned trails in recent years. While many of these trails have been built in order to meet an unmet need, they are often done with neither input by the community at large, nor input by the agencies who are charged with managing them. This unregulated activity has led to a network of trails that is difficult to manage, as it is constantly evolving. Our concerns include: user navigation and safety; natural resource protection; preserving the technical character of existing trails which differentiates Sedona from other locations throughout the Southwestern United States; and providing a positive and diverse user experience for multiple user groups. We believe that a community input process as facilitated by RTCA will go along way in creating cohesion within each user group and could lead to greater communication and understanding between each group. We see that this process could also create a list of priority trail projects and could provide valuable baseline information for future mapping projects.

Sedona and the surrounding areas are currently experiencing a wealth of users - approximately three million visitors annually, with a trend toward more, and a greater diversification of uses. Both the City of Sedona and the United States Forest Service (as the largest land managers) are currently operating under trail plans developed in the late 1990's, and as such the need for a current, unified community recreational trails plan is paramount. Receiving the support of RTCA to plan for the future will benefit the entire user community and the physical infrastructure of trails and pathways within our community.

Should this application be approved, we see that an RTCA staff person would coordinate a series of public outreach sessions to gather users suggestions and observations on the existing and potential trail system, and incorporate procedural information from the land managers to come up with a vision for the trail network in Sedona, and the steps to get there. There is a significant need to revisit the planning process and coalesce ideas into a unified vision of trail usage around Sedona. Both SMBC and IMBA fully support the application to RTCA and look forward to working cooperatively with all parties involved.

Sincerely,

Phil Kincheloe,
President, Sedona Mountain Bike Club

Patrick Kell
Regional Director - Southwest Region
International Mountain Bicycling Association



16 July 2012

Regarding: RTCA Grant Application

The Verde Valley Cyclists Coalition would like to offer our support to the City of Sedona and the Coconino National Forest, USFS, for their RTCA trails planning grant application. The mission of the VVCC is to improve the bicycle environment and thereby the quality of life in the region. A sustainable trail system is a big part of our quality of life and Sedona's recognition as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.

Sedona is blessed with unique beauty and several hundred miles of trails allowing users to experience that landscape up close. There are many miles of trails within the Sedona city limits. Residents hike, bike and run from their homes to trails that begin right in their neighborhood. Tourists come from all over the world to recreate on our trails and experience Sedona's beauty.

A trail system must be managed and maintained to ensure its future viability. Erosion from use and weather is an ongoing threat to any trail system. In Sedona, a proliferation of user built trails are also creating confusion within the trail system and degradation of the soil, plants and fauna in the region.

The RTCA grant does not involve money, but rather technical expertise from the National Park Service to assist communities to protect their trails and open space. The trails and trail users in Sedona would benefit greatly from the help this grant would offer.

Doug Copp
Vice President, Verde Valley Cyclists Coalition



July 10, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Sedona Chamber of Commerce and our nearly 1,000 members in the greater Sedona area, we ask that you support the United States Forest Service Red Rock Ranger District and the City of Sedona in pursuit of the National Park Service (NPS), Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) grant.

This grant will provide technical assistance to our area in order to preserve, maintain and enhance our most valuable resource, the Coconino National Forest.

With this grant, the City and the USFS will obtain access to trail planning "experts" to help our community with visioning, engaging the various and diverse stakeholders, and creating a roadmap that focuses on common goals as they relate to trail planning in and around Sedona and the Village of Oak Creek.

Specifically, we are excited about the opportunity to engage in a facilitated dialogue about our resources and how to balance the needs of the USFS, our residents, our business community and our visitors. As you can imagine, there are many diverse needs and opinions about this issue. This grant will provide us with the expertise to begin to build understanding, consensus and ultimately identify an action plan to work in collaboration with the Forest Plan for trails and the City's Urban Trails and Pathways Plan.

The Chamber of Commerce wholeheartedly commits to be involved in this project, as it is our number one priority to protect our natural resource for benefit of the entire community and balance the unique needs of resource protection, public safety and user satisfaction.

Please approve this joint grant request from the USFS and the City of Sedona for the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. It will help initiate the conversation and will lead to an integrated approach for protection and urban and USFS interface.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wesselhoff, CDME
President/CEO
Sedona Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau



Copy for Heather
- original mailed to
Mr. Ragins
7/6/12

Carl Taylor
District 1

July 5, 2012

Elizabeth C. Archuleta
District 2

Mr. Alan Ragins, Program Manager
NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
255 N. Commerce Park Loop
Tucson, AZ 85745

Matt Ryan
District 3

Mandy Metzger
District 4

Dear Mr. Ragins:

Lena Fowler
District 5

I understand the Red Rock Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest and the City of Sedona are applying for a Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance grant which they have entitled "Red Rock Community Trails Vision, Inventory and Assessment." I enthusiastically support this proposal. As County Supervisor, I consider wise land planning and resource protection as one of my highest priorities. The abundance of user created trails in this area are a result of high demand for trails, but have resulted in serious resource issues on the National Forest. Trails are a valuable asset to this community and to the 1.5 million visitors that come to this area each year. Local residents and visitors alike have told the Forest Service and City of Sedona that high quality trails are their number one desire. Coconino County supports well-planned trail systems developed through a collaborative process because this ultimately leads to the creation of high quality user experiences. Trails increase property values, are good for local business, get folks outdoors and encourage healthy lifestyles.

For the reasons stated above, I fully support and encourage the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program to fund the "Red Rock Community Trails, Vision, Inventory and Assessment."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Matt Ryan

Coconino County Supervisor, District 3

Board of Supervisors District 3



A.G. "CHIP" DAVIS
Supervisor, District 3

10 S. Sixth Street
Cottonwood, AZ 86326
(928) 639-8110
chip.davis@co.yavapai.az.us

July 3, 2012

Ms. Cate Bradley
NPS-RTCA
255 N. Commerce Park Loop
Tucson, AZ 85745

Dear Ms. Bradley,


The Yavapai County Board of Supervisors District 3 supports the Coconino National Forest and the City of Sedona's efforts in securing a grant to obtain technical assistance for trail planning.

We are pleased to submit this letter in support for the project. We understand that the project will identify what the various stakeholders desire in a trail system, what areas are most resource sensitive, educate users regarding resource sensitivities and ultimately identify necessary changes to both the Coconino National Forest Plan for trails and the City's Urban Trails and Pathways Plan for future implementation.

We feel that this project is worthy of consideration for the RTCA grant and believe this effort will dovetail nicely into the Yavapai County trails planning effort.

Thank you for considering our support for this nomination.

Best regards,



A. G. "Chip" Davis
District 3 Supervisor

BIG PARK REGIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL

P.O. Box 20248
Sedona, Arizona 86341

Mr Alan Ragins
Program Manager, RTC Assistance
National Park Service

July 13, 2012

Dear Mr Ragins,

The Big Park Regional Coordinating Council, a recognized voice for this unincorporated community in the midst of Red Rock Country, voted unanimously to support the efforts of the Forest Service and the City of Sedona in their application to the National Park Service RTCA Program. Our recent work on the Vision for our community, made clear the importance residents, businesses and visitors place on their experience with the surrounding forest lands. We are working to become widely recognized worldwide as an excellent center for hiking and biking. Since the local economy is heavily dependent on tourists, we hope to preserve the natural beauty that draws so many visitors to our area. Many volunteers from our community have devoted thousands of hours to trail maintenance, litter "lifting", manning the Visitors' Center at the Forest Service, etc., in hopes of influencing visitors to "preserve the wonder". Community efforts led to our section of State Route 179 (the main artery from Interstate 17 into the greater Sedona area) being designated the first All American Road in Arizona. In short, the Big Park/Village of Oak Creek community is committed to the goals of both the Forest Service and the City of Sedona in this application.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Fisher, President
Big Park Regional Coordinating Council

cc: Heather Provencio, Red Rock Ranger District
Jennifer Burns, Red Rock Ranger District



Flagstaff Biking Organization
PO Box 23851
Flagstaff, AZ 86002
trails@flagstaffbiking.org

July 18, 2012

Mr. Alan Ragins
Program Manager, RTCA
National Park Service
255 N. Commerce Park Loop
Tucson, AZ 85745

RE: Support for the NPS RTCA Assistance for Red Rock Trails, Creating a Vision to Connect and Protect

Dear Mr. Ragins,

On behalf of Flagstaff Biking Organization, I am writing to encourage you to approve RTCA assistance for the Red Rock Trails, Creating a Vision to Connect and Protect project.

Flagstaff Biking Organization (FBO) is a group of cyclists who came together to "promote bicycling as a safe and attractive means of transportation and recreation in Northern Arizona." Our initial project was to put on a Bike to Work Week for our community in May 2002. Building on the success we started to expand our efforts to keep people informed of cycling related issues and galvanize support for better and safer facilities, trails, and trail access. Currently we have well over 250 paid members and represent the interests of Flagstaff's thousands of cyclists. Please see <http://flagstaffbiking.org/about-fbo/> for more information.

Sedona is extremely popular with mountain bikers in the Flagstaff area particularly during the colder months. Being a mere 50 minute drive from downtown Flagstaff, the trails in Sedona offer a welcome respite from colder, snowy conditions three to five months of the year. Our members will be directly affected by the planning process that this support would facilitate.

We have been well aware of the proliferation of “social” trails in the Sedona area by all sorts of users over the past several years. This has been brought on by the rapidly growing popularity of the Sedona backcountry with a diverse array of recreational users, coupled with the desire of many of these users to find new, different and less crowded experiences.

We feel strongly that the current USFS trail system underserves both the quantity of users and the diversity of experiences sought by those users. We are extremely excited to participate in any process that would lead to appropriate management strategies to address these demands in a socially and environmentally sustainable fashion.

Specifically we are willing to assist in generating public participation in this planning process through the use of our web site, email list, Facebook presence and relationships within the trail user communities. We can bring a level of insight on a diverse array mountain bike riders’ desired experiences. In addition, we have experience in working with the Federal and local governments to help address the sometimes complicated urban to back country trail interface through our work on the Flagstaff Loop Trail project with Coconino County, the City of Flagstaff and the Flagstaff District of the Coconino National Forest.

We ultimately hope that this process can lead to language that can be used both in site specific planning efforts and incorporated into the Coconino National Forest Land Use Management Plan that will recognize the need to provide an adequate quantity and quality of trail to meet the demand for mountain biking in the highly popular Sedona area while at the same time providing for ample protections for natural and cultural resources and the needs other user groups.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

s/Anthony Quintile

For the Board of Flagstaff Biking Organization



**BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN
OF
CENTRAL ARIZONA**

Rachel Murdoch
Recreation and Aquatics Supervisor/Acting Manager
City of Sedona

Jennifer Burns
Red Rocks District
Coconino National Forest

The Back Country Horsemen of Central Arizona, THE LEADER FOR PRIVATE, RECREATIONAL SADDLE AND PACK STOCK USE ON PUBLIC LAND AND THE RELATED STEWARDSHIP OF THOSE LANDS, is writing this letter in support of the efforts of the City of Sedona, Arizona, in their pursuing of a grant through the National Parks Service to obtain technical assistance for trail planning.

Denny Murray, President BCHCAZ
and
Jim Higgs, National Director Back Country Horsemen of America

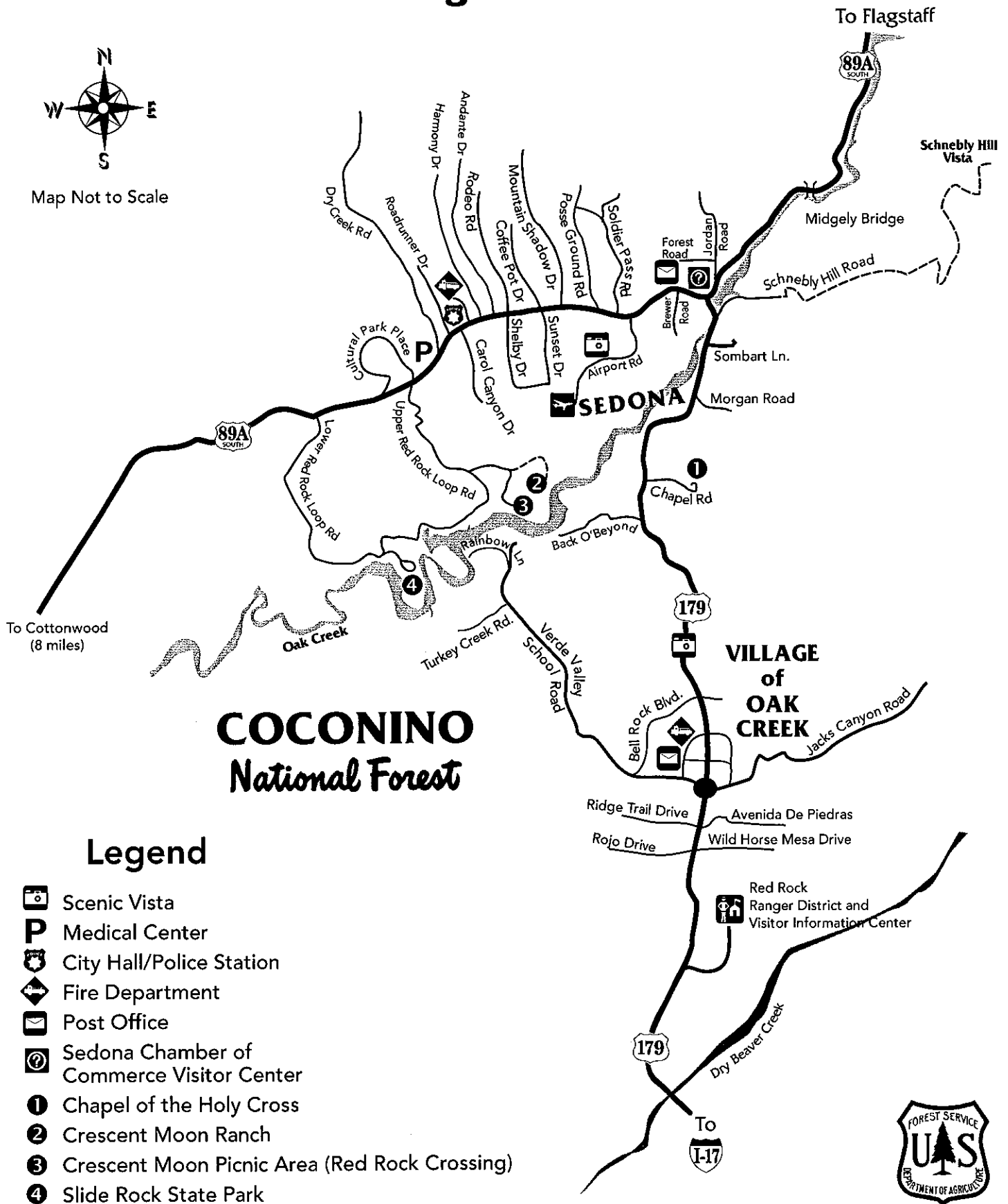
BCHCAZ
PO Box 4486
Chino Valley, AZ 86323

Red Rock Country

Sedona and the Village of Oak Creek



Map Not to Scale



Red Rock Country

Coconino National Forest

No motorized or mechanized vehicles including bicycles allowed in wilderness

Yield To

RED ROCK SECRET MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS

Oak Creek Canyon
Camping and/or
campfires are
permitted only
in campgrounds.

COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST



Map Scale

0 1 2 3 miles

LEGEND

Red Rock Pass
fee area boundary

Closed to camping and campfires
except within developed campgrounds

Visitor Information ?

Campground A

Day Use Recreation Site B

Trailhead I No fee, no pass needed

Red RockPass required (can
substitute with Interagency Annual,
Senior, or Access Pass)

Trail Name

Trail

Oak Creek

Primary Highway

Paved Road

(FR) Forest Service
or Dirt Road

Wilderness Area

Wilderness Boundary

West Fork Oak Creek

Cave Springs

West Fork

A.B. Young

7 A

89A

Bootlegger

Halfway

6 A

Manzanita

17 A

Encinoso

5

Wilson Mountain

Brins Mesa

Wilson Canyon

Jim Thompson

Cibola Pass

4

Midgely Bridge

4

Huckaby

3

Uptown

2

Brewer

2

Chapel

179

Little Horse

1

Chapel

1

Chapel

1

Chapel

1

Chapel

1

Chapel

1

Chapel

1

Chapel

1

VILLAGE OF OAK CREEK

MUNDS MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS

Camping and campfires
allowed between
Schnebley Hill Vista and I-17.

Wilderness Boundary

Wilderness Boundary

Wilderness Boundary

Wilderness Boundary

Wilderness Boundary

Wilderness Boundary

Wilderness Boundary

Wilderness Boundary

Wilderness Boundary